

Memo to - STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

2008 IN SHELL AND EGG PULP EXPORTS.
The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Supplied by the Government Statist from returns specially collected from Exporting Merchants.

WHEAT HARVEST, 1938-39 - OCTOBER ESTIMATE.

GRAND TOTAL EXPORTS for each of the years 1933-34 to 1937-38 were respectively 8,358,000, 7,500,000, 6,800,000, 6,000,000 and 5,000,000 dozen for 1933-34; 7,500,000 for 1934-35; 7,500,000 for 1935-36; 6,800,000 for 1936-37 and 5,000,000 for 1937-38. As agreed at a Conference some years ago, each State Statistician prepares estimates of the Wheat Harvest as at or about the 15th October, November and December each year. It is not the practice to publish the October Estimate, but the Commonwealth Statistidan is advised so that he can prepare a provisional estimate for the whole of Australia.

Any estimate based on conditions early in the season must of necessity be open to a wide margin of error.

As is usual, reports have been received dealing with conditions in each of the main wheat producing hundreds (over 300) but it is very difficult this year to make a definite estimate. There has been no general rain for about 2 months, and from the reports it is difficult to guage the effect of the continuing dry spell and the several days of hot winds.

The following are the principal facts culled from the reports -

1. A larger area will be cut for hay due to the demand for fodder in this and other States.

| State | Egg Pulp | Total Value |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| South | 603,807 | 37,474 |
| Victoria | 1,532,652 | 71,741 |
| Western Australia | 109,215 | |

3. The early crops on fallow have been standing up remarkably well, and most districts report that an early rain would improve such crops.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| Victoria | 92,155 | 6,247 |
| Western Australia | 1,055,984 | 47,689 |
| Other States | 53,976 | |

4. Other districts report that it is doubtful whether rain would now be of as much benefit as would cool weather.

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| Other States | 10,920 | 832 |
| Total | 156,828 | 7,524 |

5. Late crops, and on stubble, are deteriorating very rapidly. In the marginal areas many of them are failures and others are being fed off so that they may be some little use.

6. The late crops that have so far withstood the dry spell would be improved by an early rain.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1936-37 | 1,151,898 | 69,622 |
| 1937-38 | 3,029,934 | 103,002 |
| 1938-39 | 76,454 | |

7. Hot weather, with winds, will further lessen yields.

The reports received may be unduly pessimistic, but on present conditions they only indicate a yield of approximately 28,000,000 bushels from 3,065,000 acres.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 612 | 121,586 | 331,750 |
| Decrease or Decrease | -1,591,379 | -71,331 | -339,268 |
| | | 30,433 | -40,898 |

The total eggs received by the Exporting Statistical Office, dozen valued at \$370,000, the balance of ADELAIDE. 2,500,000 dozen being local sales.

20th October, 1938.

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

A. W. BOWDEN,

Statistical Office,